

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
January 6, 2006

ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Physician Assistant Committee was called to order at 1:32 p.m. by Charles Scholtes, P.A., in the Staybridge Suites Board Room, 2701 Fletcher Ave, Lincoln, Nebraska. Copies of the agenda were sent to the Committee members, media and other interested parties prior to the meeting. The following members answered roll call.

Charles Scholtes, P.A., Chair  
Randy Kohl, MD  
Gerald Luckey, MD  
Carl Rossitto  
Paul Shellabarger, PA

A quorum was present and the meeting convened. Also present were Becky Wisell, Section Administrator, Credentialing Division, Sherri Joyner, Credentialing Specialist, Michael Grutsch, Program Manager, Investigations Division, and Terri Nutzman-Buller, Assistant Attorney General.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Luckey moved, seconded by Kohl, to approve the agenda Voting aye: Kohl, Luckey, Rossitto, Scholtes, Shellabarger. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

Chuck Scholtes left the meeting at 1:34

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Kohl moved, seconded by Luckey, to elect Carl Rossitto to be Secretary. Voting aye: Kohl, Luckey, Rossitto, Shellabarger. Voting nay: none. Absent: Scholtes. Motion carried.

Luckey moved, seconded by Rossitto, to elect Paul Shellabarger to be Chairman. Voting aye: Kohl, Luckey, Rossitto, Shellabarger. Voting nay: none. Absent: Scholtes. Motion carried.

Rossitto moved, seconded by Luckey, to elect Chuck Scholtes to be Vice-Chairman. Voting aye: Kohl, Luckey, Rossitto, Shellabarger. Voting nay: none. Absent: Scholtes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Luckey moved, seconded by Rossitto, to approve the minutes from the September 14 and November 15, 2005 Committee meetings. Voting aye: Kohl, Luckey, Rossitto, Shellabarger. Voting nay: none. Absent: Scholtes. Motion carried.

INVESTIGATIONAL REPORTS

There were no investigation cases for the Committee to consider.

### ULL UPDATE

Wisell reported that the Department will not introduce legislation to reform the Uniform Licensing Law during the 2006 legislative session. The Department will continue working on the issue and hopes legislation can be introduced during the 2007 session.

### APPLICATION REVIEW

#### Requests to Supervise a PA less than 20%

The Committee reviewed the application from **Chris Maasdam, MD**, to supervise **Brett Scholting, PA**. Scholting is employed full-time as a physician assistant with the Nebraska Army National Guard. Dr. Maasdam has direct contact with Capt. Scholting one to two days per month. Grutsch remarked that on a day-to-day basis, Capt. Scholting primarily does physicals and administrative work. Committee members noted the low level of patient complexity and the unique population being served. Kohl moved, seconded by Luckey, to **approve** Dr. Maasdam's application. Voting aye: Kohl, Luckey, Shellabarger. Voting nay: none. Abstaining: Rossitto. Absent: Scholtes. Motion carried.

The Committee reviewed the request for approval from **Paula Walters, MD**, to supervise **Kimberly Dierks, PA**, at a rate of 10%. Dr. Walters is currently certified as Dierks' supervisor. Dierks will provide services at Alegent's Quick Care Clinic located within an Omaha grocery store. Luckey noted that the practice site was not in a healthcare shortage area, and that the PA was relatively new to the profession. Luckey also questioned how we could be sure that only low-level complexity care would be provided. Shellabarger noted that given the job duties of the PA staffing the clinic, a 10% supervisory rate would be sufficient to ensure quality healthcare. He also noted that if a PA exceeds her Scope of Practice, she could be subject to disciplinary action. Shellabarger suggested that the state could look at how similar types of clinics work in other states to see if there have been any negative outcomes. Luckey moved, seconded by Rossitto, to **deny** the request. Voting aye: Kohl, Rossitto, Luckey. Voting nay: Shellabarger. Absent: Scholtes. Motion carried.

#### Applications to Supervise a PA from Physicians' with Disciplinary Action or Limitation

The Committee reviewed the application from **Scott Smith, MD**, to supervise **Amy Eifert, PA**. Dr. Smith's Nebraska physician license was on "Limitation-Voluntary" status in lieu of discipline from 1995 to 1998. The Committee noted that the physician has maintained his license in good standing since 1998. Kohl moved, seconded by Rossitto, to **approve** Dr. Smith's application. Voting aye: Kohl, Luckey, Rossitto, Shellabarger. Voting nay: none. Absent: Scholtes. Motion carried.

The Committee reviewed the application from **Steven Mahnke, MD**, to supervise **Brandon McLaughlin, PA**. On Nov. 7, 2005, the Department ordered Dr. Mahnke's license suspended for 90 days to be followed by two years of probation. Dr. Mahnke is appealing the decision, and the District Court has stayed the suspension. The Committee noted that other than obstetric procedures, there are no concerns with the quality of care Dr. Mahnke provides. Rossitto moved, seconded by Shellabarger, to **approve** Dr. Mahnke's application. Voting aye: Kohl, Luckey, Rossitto, Shellabarger. Voting nay: none. Absent: Scholtes. Motion carried.

Applications to Supervise a Third Physician Assistant

The Committee reviewed the application from **Teri Barkoukis, MD**, to supervise **Mikhael Loots, PA**. Dr. Barkoukis is already supervising two physician assistants. The Committee noted that the PAs' hours will not exceed 2 FTEs. Luckey moved, seconded by Kohl, to **approve** Dr. Barkoukis's application. Voting aye: Kohl, Luckey, Rossitto, Shellabarger. Voting nay: none. Absent: Scholtes. Motion carried.

The Committee reviewed the application from **Robert Saniuk, MD**, to supervise **Rebecca Wehrbein, PA**. Dr. Saniuk is already supervising two physician assistants. The Committee noted that the PAs' hours will not exceed 2 FTEs. Luckey moved, seconded by Kohl, to **approve** Dr. Saniuk's application. Voting aye: Kohl, Luckey, Rossitto, Shellabarger. Voting nay: none. Absent: Scholtes. Motion carried.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Wisell informed the Committee of proposed legislation that might affect physician assistants: LB 833 would change the consultation provisions for out-of-state physicians; Sen. McDonald might introduce a bill that would establish a registry for donated immunosuppressant drugs, similar to the Cancer Drug Repository Program currently administered by the Department . Mike Grutsch reported that LB 891 would create a Hepatitis C Education Task Force, whose membership would include a physician assistant licensed in Nebraska.

ADJOURNMENT

Rositto moved, seconded by Luckey, to adjourn the meeting at 2:42 p.m. Voting aye: Kohl, Luckey, Rossitto, Shellabarger. Voting nay: none. Absent: Scholtes. Motion carried.

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Sherri Joyner, Credentialing Specialist  
Recorder